

Huskers Illustrated

A full-page photograph of a football game. In the center, a player in a white jersey with yellow pants is being tackled by several players in red jerseys with white pants. The action is taking place on a blue turf field. In the background, a red banner with white text is visible, and a referee in a black and white striped shirt is partially seen on the left.

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Huskers Illustrated

October / November, 1981 / Vol. 1, No. 8

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Publisher's Message

One of the great things about Nebraska football is the pride we all take in Cornhusker tradition. From decade to decade, we have memories of great moments for great teams, featuring some of college football's greatest individual players and coaches.

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Order now and you should get yours by Christmas. Or order for a friend or relative, and we'll inscribe the personal metallic plate on the front of the plaque as a gift from you. Send your check or money order, or place your order by phone, using Master Card or Visa.

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On The Cover...

Roger Craig has started the 1981 campaign just about like Cornhusker fans hoped he would. Here the high-flying junior I-back goes over the top for a big play against Florida State. And Lincoln Star and Journal photographer Randy Hampton was there to capture the moment.

In Next Issue...

Get to know the Huskers better! You'll find more features on Nebraska players and coaches, as well as a blend of NU tradition and another big two-page color photo spread.

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Nebraska 'Backers Meet Black Shirt Standards

Steve, Steve and 'that other guy' Brent continue a tradition of excellence at a position that is critical to Husker Big 8 title hopes.

By Mike Babcock

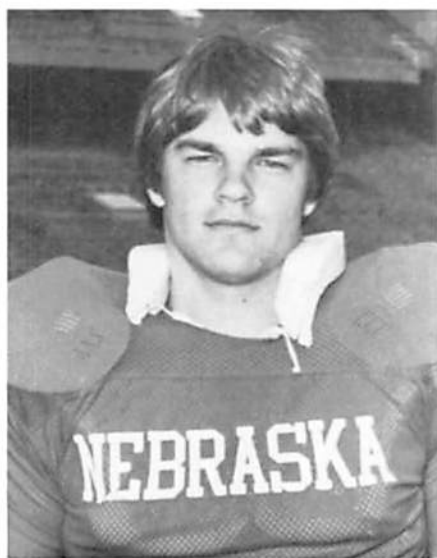
Some football teams call them "Mike and Meg" or "Sara and Wanda". At Nebraska, however, they are known as "Sam" and "Will", the strongside linebacker and the weakside linebacker.

This season, those positions are held, primarily, by three juniors who alternate with each other to give the Cornhuskers one of the best linebacking tandems in the Big Eight Conference. Like the relentless Northwest Mounted Police, they always get their man.

According to Brent Evans, when people talk about this year's Husker linebackers, they refer to "the two Steve's and that other guy." Steve Damkroger and Steve McWhirter are "the two Steve's," while Evans is "that other guy." He says he doesn't mind, though. "I never got mentioned because I've got a long way to go yet to prove myself, something they've already done."

Damkroger and McWhirter began the season as starters, with Evans backing them up on both sides. Evans moved into a starting position for the Florida State game after McWhirter suffered a knee injury late in the first quarter of the Iowa game.

Their reasons for picking Nebraska are as diverse as their personalities. Compared with each other, Damkroger is a pessimist, Evans is an optimist, and McWhirter falls somewhere in between.



Steve Damkroger

DAMKROGER

Steve Damkroger says he knew all along he'd end up playing football at the University of Nebraska. His father, Ralph, played tight end and defensive end for the Cornhuskers in the late 1940's, and his brother, Maury, was a Husker fullback for three years, playing first as a sophomore on Nebraska's national championship team in 1971.

Maury, the 1970 Nebraska prep "Athlete of the Year," also spent two years as a linebacker for the New

England Patriots in the National Football League.

Steve came to Nebraska because he had no choice, but he says his decision wasn't based on the fact that Ralph and Maury were Cornhusker football players before him. The reason was, "I didn't get any other (scholarship) offers," he said.

Damkroger would have liked some other offers from major colleges. He "wanted to look around," but schools which might have been interested in the former Parade Magazine All-American from Lincoln Northeast High School backed off when they learned of his family's connection with Nebraska. Small colleges kept him on their lists; most NCAA Division I schools, however, did not.

Steve says he wasn't obsessed with going to Nebraska and playing for the Cornhuskers while he was growing up. He followed the Huskers and regularly attended games when his brother played, of course, but he didn't go to many games after that. He sold cokes and programs at NU home football games when he was in junior high, but "I wasn't as 'Big Red' as most people," he said.

Nebraska recruited him as actively as it recruited any other blue-chip players, either in-state or out-of-state. He made his official visit to campus, regularly



Brent Evans (48) stands guard over this Iowa ball carrier while Steve Damkroger (right) finishes up the tackle.

received letters from alumni and fans, and was scouted three times by NU coaches. He was not ignored on the assumption that his ties to Nebraska were so strong he'd pick the Cornhuskers whether they showed an interest or not. But no one pushed him.

Damkroger made the decision, to enroll, for himself.

Although his family ties help explain why Damkroger never was invited to make an NCAA-allotted six campus recruiting visits, Nebraska's junior linebacker offers a more self-effacing explanation. He maintains he was a "very, very average" football player in high school, and he didn't even know if he'd be good enough to play in college.

Lincoln Northeast finished third in the state in football his senior year, but the Rocket team on which he played as a junior "might have been the worst that ever played in Nebraska history; we were terrible."

No one ever accused him of

misrepresenting his own abilities.

Even now, Damkroger says he's not very strong and doesn't enjoy lifting weights, though anyone who saw him bring down Iowa State's Dwayne Crutchfield, a 230-pound All-Big Eight tailback, one-on-one, last season in Ames might argue the point. He says he's not very fast and doesn't want to talk about 40-yard dash times, and he says he's not very smart, that's why he plays football instead of basketball or baseball.

Those things do not, however, explain how he played well enough to earn All-Big Eight honorable mention last year as a sophomore. "I don't know what they (coaches) look for," Damkroger said.

According to his friends, Damkroger chose football because he wasn't smooth enough to play basketball — a sport he finally gave up — and because he struck out all the time in baseball. "I wasn't much of a stick," he said.

Damkroger has done his "sticking" on the football field for a long time, beginning his first organized competition with the Fire Department team in Lincoln's Midget League program. He played four years for the Fire Department, and even back then, he was a linebacker.

At Northeast High, he played both defense and offense, running at fullback when the Rockets had the ball. Damkroger says he never really considered following his brother's footsteps and playing fullback at Nebraska because "when I came here, I decided they'd put me where they wanted me, anyway."

He admits, however, that linebacker "is what I wanted," adding, in typical Steve Damkroger fashion, linebackers don't have to worry about fumbling the ball.

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Linebackers

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Damkroger, McWhirter and Evans all were freshmen in 1978, a year in which the NCAA experimented with allowing schools to red-shirt first-year players. Damkroger and McWhirter agreed to red-shirt, as did center Dave Rimington, tight end Jamie Williams, and split end Todd Brown. According to Damkroger, the decision to red-shirt wasn't difficult.

"Coach (John) Melton called me into his office and told me I might have a chance to play the next year if I red-shirted. The freshman year is your worst, and I figured I'd probably red-shirt anyway since just about everybody here does, so I might as well do it then," he said.

"I didn't miss playing on the freshman team, and I had a chance to play four years on the varsity."

During his red-shirt season, he played on the scout squad, but "I didn't go against the big guys, usually it was the third and fourth teams. They weren't as quick (as the top unit players), but they hit just as hard."

As a second-year freshman, he made the Nebraska traveling squad, seeing most of his action on specialty teams. "I think they took me along so the good guys wouldn't get hurt on kickoffs," Damkroger said.

It wasn't a bad experience, though. "I got a letter," he said.

Damkroger has established a reputation for playing his best when the competition is the toughest. He doesn't back down from a challenge. Perhaps his best game in his first two seasons of playing with the Cornhusker varsity was last year against Oklahoma. Damkroger was credited with 17 tackles, eight of which were unassisted. That effort, he said, was "pretty good."

Nebraska's defense is set up so that the linebackers make most of the tackles. The defensive line tries to keep blockers off "Sam" and "Will" so they can wrap up the ball carrier. They're the 'hit men', a part Damkroger plays well...with an occasional Charles Bronson smile for emphasis.

Damkroger is the strongside linebacker and ordinarily doesn't call

the defensive signals. That task is left to "Will," the weakside linebacker, which is fine with Steve. He says the reason he doesn't call signals is, "I mess up too much."

Opposing players probably wouldn't argue with that statement. The truth is, Damkroger does a good job of messing up their offenses. He's as omnipresent and ominous as the neighborhood bully.

The 6-1, 220-pound linebacker goes about his business without saying much. His quietness might be the result of his having listened to some advice from his brother, Maury, when he first enrolled at Nebraska. Maury told him "to keep my mouth shut — which is something I learned growing up — and not talk back to the coaches." More than likely, though, the quietness is a reflection of his personality.

Damkroger shares an apartment with some friends who also attended Lincoln Northeast. Larry Clark worked for two years before enrolling at Nebraska in the fall. He's trying to walk on with the NU junior varsity as a linebacker. Mark Geist was a cornerback at Northeast on the same team with Damkroger and Clark. Mark's younger brother, John, was on the Rocket golf team.

Damkroger doesn't talk or smile much, and he says "if you consider school and everything, it (college football) can seem like a job for which you don't get paid." But, he quickly adds, football is still fun.

Even if it wasn't, "I'd probably still play because it pays for my school," Damkroger said.

Though Nebraska seems a logical place to find him, what with his father and brother both having been Cornhuskers, too, Damkroger says he could have gone to another school "if I had wanted to have a good time. I came here for the football program, just to play football."

That's something he's done well.

EVANS

Brent Evans was a fullback when he came to Nebraska. He hadn't been a defender since he was a freshman at a high school which was in its first year of existence and played one-platoon football. Everyone got a chance to play with the varsity in the new program, and he was a defensive back.

Since that time, however, Evans has been an offensive back. As a freshman



Brent Evans

with the Nebraska junior varsity, he was a second-string fullback who rushed 17 times for 101 yards, a 5.9 yards-per-carry average.

Evans remained at fullback until two weeks into spring practice of that freshman year. Then one day, after an unspectacular scrimmage, he checked the depth chart and found his name listed at the bottom of the "linebackers" column.

Nebraska's offensive backs coach Mike Corgan "explained to me that I was about as good as I was going to get (as a fullback)," Evans said.

That might not have been good enough, considering his speed, which is in the 4.8 to 4.85 second range for the 40-yard dash. Linebackers, however, can get by with a little less speed than fullbacks, said Evans. "Linebackers aren't usually running straight out. They make different kinds of movements, like shuffling. There's more lateral movement."

Evans realized then that if Nebraska recruited one or two top-flight fullbacks, he'd be looking for a new job, anyway, so from that day on, he's been a linebacker, and this year, he's gotten the chance to prove he's a pretty good one.

Evans got his first significant chance to play when Steve McWhirter was sidelined with a knee injury in the Iowa game. Though admitting the circumstances which created his oppor-

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Linebackers

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tunity to play were unfortunate, "it was fun getting to play again," Evans said.

Nebraska linebacker coach John Melton "told me I'd get to play a lot (in the game), but I still couldn't believe it," he said. When McWhirter went out of the game, "I realized I could be in there right to the end."

"I had fun, and it was the first time I had felt like I was part of an actual game since I had been in high school," said Evans.

The next week, he got his first varsity start against Florida State and responded with 13 tackles in the Huskers' 34-14 victory.

Prior to this season, his action had been limited to mop-up situations and specialty-team assignments. He had never been on a kickoff team before, and "it was really weird; I didn't know

what I was doing," Evans said. At times in the opener against Iowa, he didn't know what he was doing, either. He says he made a lot of mistakes early in the game, and "Coach Melton could have gotten on me, but he didn't."

Evans came to Nebraska from Hazelwood West High School, in a suburb of St. Louis, Mo., and though his graduating class was the first to go through the school, Hazelwood West went 6-2-1 when he was a senior. After he was graduated, the school went on one of the longest losing streaks in St. Louis prep history, more than 25 games. Evans does not admit there is any connection between his being graduated and the losing streak, however.

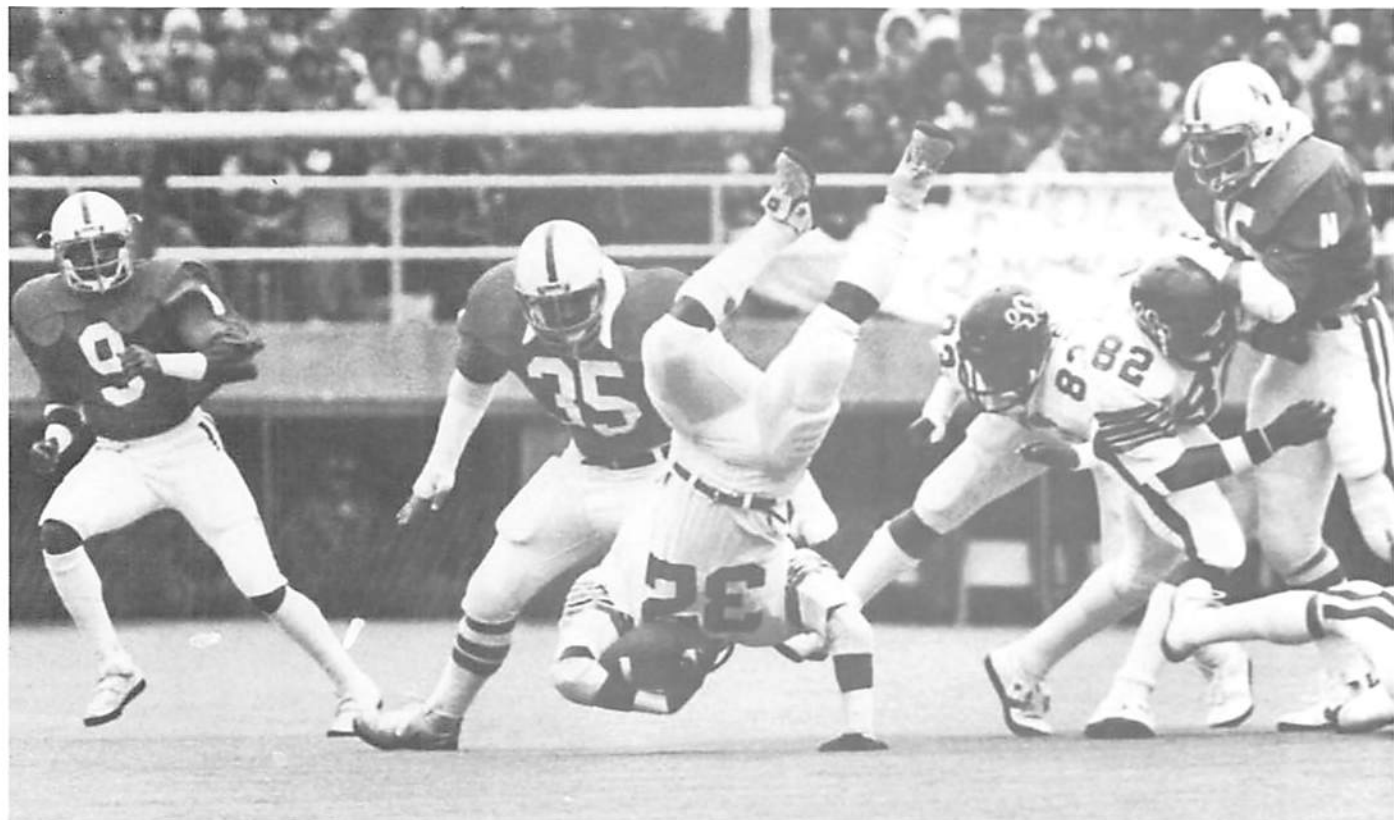
He was recruited by several Big Eight schools, visiting Colorado and Purdue, of the Big Ten, before deciding to attend Nebraska. He says his father, Tom, was pleased with his decision to go to Nebraska because "my dad and I came here to see Nebraska play Indiana, and he fell in love with the place."

Brent and his father visited Lincoln and were part of a crowd of 76,034 in Memorial Stadium the day Isaiah Hipp shattered a Nebraska single-game school rushing record by gaining 254 yards in 28 carries against the Hoosiers and leading the Cornhuskers to a 31-13 victory. Evans was impressed.

Later in the season, he visited Oklahoma the day Nebraska played the Sooners. Though Oklahoma won the game by a lop-sided 38-7 score, Evans didn't change his mind about wanting to become a Cornhusker. "Even though Oklahoma had given me my ticket for the game, I was rooting for Nebraska to win," he said.

Evans was scheduled to make a recruiting visit to Iowa State, but a couple of days before he was to leave, Nebraska assistant coach Charlie McBride called to see if he had made a decision regarding the Huskers. Evans hadn't, but before he hung up the phone, he had — rather than running the risk of Nebraska's withdrawing its offer, Evans accepted right then.

He played with an undefeated junior



Linebackers Steve McWhirter (45) and Steve Damkroger (35) have the middle plugged against Oklahoma State's Ed Smith.

varsity team as a freshman and then spent a red-shirt season, learning the intricacies of playing linebacker. During that red-shirt season, Evans grew to 240 pounds.

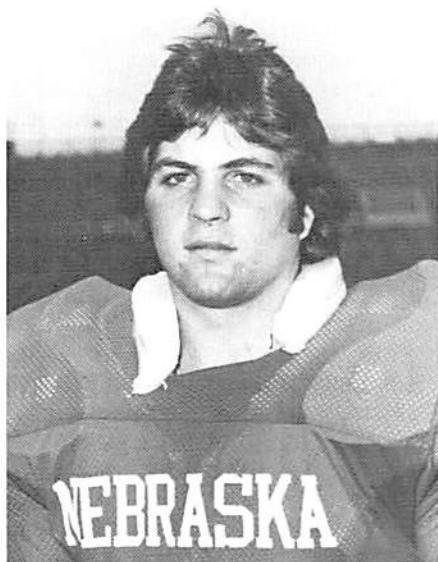
This season Evans is 6-3, plays at 220 pounds and maintains his weight at that level not only through practice and weight training, but also by being a regular on the racquetball courts. Last winter, he reached the semifinals of the team's racquetball tournament, losing 21-20 because "I choked," he said.

Evans has been playing racquetball since he was "14 or 15 years old" and he says he's gotten pretty good, but "my dad still beats me bad."

Being the "other guy" in a linebacker trio which includes two Steve's, Damkroger and McWhirter, doesn't bother Evans.

"I've joked about it, and I've given them trouble about it, but they're both good players and they've helped me a lot," he said, adding that neither of the two is as quiet as most people believe.

"They talk....I think they just like to give people the impression they don't."



Steve McWhirter

McWHIRTER

If Maharishi International University had fielded a football team, it could have found a couple of pretty good linebackers right there in Fairfield, Iowa.

The problem is, MIU turned its football field into a flower garden.

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Linebackers

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While Nebraska linebacker Steve McWhirter was attending Fairfield High, Maharishi International University sprung up where the Parsons College campus once had been.

According to McWhirter, a group of

course. In fact, it planted what had been the football field in flowers.

McWhirter and Steve Meinen were the linebackers on the Fairfield High School football team, and both earned college scholarships. Meinen went to Iowa State and red-shirted his first season. But he hurt a knee and had to give up football before he ever played a down for the Cyclones.

McWhirter also had a knee problem and underwent surgery for a torn ligament prior to the Cotton Bowl, at the end of the 1978 season.

report for drills. "That shows you what kind of guy he is," NU linebackers coach John Melton said at the time.

McWhirter admitted: "I felt I'd have a lot better chance of playing in the fall if I went through spring ball, so I worked pretty hard."

When it came time to choose a school, McWhirter visited Iowa State and Arizona but turned down trips to Texas and Notre Dame after deciding on Nebraska. "I visited Nebraska pretty early, it was my first in fact, and I was pretty impressed, so whenever anybody talked to me, I said I'd already made up my mind," he said. Iowa State was a distant second on his preference list.

McWhirter was impressed with Nebraska's program and its facilities. That's all it took.

Like Damkroger, McWhirter was a freshman in 1978 and spent a red-shirt season before earning a varsity letter as a second-year freshman in 1979. Being a freshman red-shirt "was a good deal for me. It was a good opportunity to work with the scout squad and see how quick the varsity was. Plus, we got in on a lot of meetings we wouldn't have if we'd been playing for the freshmen. If I would have played freshmen ball, I doubt I would have been red-shirted the next year because they were short of linebackers," he said.

McWhirter was a back-up to Brent Williams at weakside linebacker last season, getting his first start against his home state university, Iowa.

McWhirter never says much, and when he was told by Melton of that starting assignment he replied, simply: "Okay."

Prior to the start of the season Melton said he'd match McWhirter and Damkroger "as a pair, against anyone in the league (Big Eight). They both had great sophomore years," he said. "They're big, strong and aggressive. If they're banged up, they just put more tape on and keep coming at you."

"You can flip a coin; one's just as good as the other. You should try to grade them on film. They're built and look alike."

Now Brent Evans has worked his way into that select group, too. When McWhirter went down with his knee injury, Evans had to help pick up the slack. He's proved he belongs, with his aggressive play, and, he says, he's fast losing his designation as "that other guy." ●



Steve Damkroger buries Iowa State tailback Dwayne Crutchfield.

people from California purchased the Parsons campus and turned it into a center for transcendental meditation. "People (in Fairfield) thought it would bring money into the community," said McWhirter.

"It was a pretty weird deal."

MIU didn't have a football team, of

The first thing he heard when he woke up after the surgery was NU football team physician Dr. Pat Clare telling him to forget about spring practice. He was supposed to be sidelined for nine months and had to miss winter conditioning, but by the start of practice next spring, he had recovered sufficiently to

'41 Huskers Began Bowl Tradition

First Nebraska bowl team lost to Stanford in the Rose Bowl. But those Huskers of 1941 started a grand tradition that continues to set records.

There have been 66 Rose Bowl football games since Michigan defeated Stanford 49-0 on January 1, 1902 — 67 games in all in Pasadena's "granddaddy of all bowl games."

As far as University of Nebraska football fans are concerned, however, there has been only one Rose Bowl, and it was played on January 1, 1941. Stanford which helped initiate the annual event, was back for the eighth time in the bowl's 27th game. Stanford's nickname was still the "Indians," then and its opponent that afternoon was Nebraska, the Cornhuskers of Major Lawrence McCeney "Biff" Jones.

Just after Nebraska's 1940 team received its invitation to play in the New Year's Day game, John Bentley, a Lincoln sportswriter who covered the fortunes of the Cornhuskers, wrote that there were two great dates in the state's history: 1867, statehood, and 1940, the Rose Bowl team, which was the first Nebraska squad ever chosen for a bowl and the last great Cornhusker team before the dark days of the 1940s and 1950s.

To get some indication of the magnitude of the event, even then, Nebraska was allotted 5,000 tickets for

the game, and they were sold out in three days.

Nebraska didn't win the Rose Bowl game, of course. Clark Shaughnessy's Stanford team used a new-fangled offense called the T-formation and a quarterback named Frankie Albert to defeat the Cornhuskers 21-13. After the game, Major Jones made no excuses. "Stanford simply has a grand team," he told reporters.

But Nebraskans haven't allowed that fact to taint their memories of that glorious day.

Former Nebraska basketball coach Jerry Bush, now deceased, always claimed he was in Lincoln for three years before he found out that the Cornhuskers had lost the game; its glory has never diminished.

It was a special team, one comprised entirely of native Nebraskans. It was a senior team, built by a great coach, who started with many of those same players when they were sophomores in 1938.

There were no scholarships then: players like Warren Alfson and Vike Francis, Roy (King Kong) Kahler and Allen Zikmand, Herman Rohrig and "Cowboy" Roy Petsch worked their way through school.

Forrest Behm, an All-American

tackle, was a cadet colonel in the ROTC and was one of the university's brightest students.

The team had eight All-Big Six players: Behm; Petsch, the quarterback; Alfson and Ed Schwartzkopf, the guards; wingback Butch Luther; the star in a 20-7 win over Missouri that season who died in the Italian Alps as a ski trooper during World War II; backs Harry "Hippity" Hopp, who went on to become an all-pro with the Detroit Lions, and Vike Francis; and end Ray Prochaska.

Prochaska, Rohrig and Allison all played in the College All-Star game.

It might not have been Nebraska's greatest team. The Cornhuskers lost their opening game to Minnesota, 13-7, before reeling off eight straight victories. Even then, Nebraska wouldn't have earned an invitation to the Rose Bowl if it hadn't been for a Texas team coached by the legendary D.X. Bible, who once coached the Huskers. Texas upset Texas A&M on Thanksgiving Day or the Aggies likely would have been Stanford's opponent in Pasadena. Bible later would call his team's victory over A&M "one of my most satisfying because it helped Nebraska."

The 1941 Rose Bowl team, the

capstone on 50 years of Nebraska football, a Cornhusker Camelot, now a memory with all the magic of an Arthurian legend.

Nebraska was a heavy underdog going into the game, which was billed as a match between Stanford's speed and deception and the Cornhuskers' brawn.

Shaughnessy's Stanford team was the surprise of the Pacific Coast Conference, utilizing a T-formation with Albert at quarterback and Pete Kmetovic, Hugh Gallarneau, and Norman Standlee behind him. The National Football League Chicago Bears had used the "T" for several seasons defeating Sammy Baugh and the Washington Redskins 83-0 with it in 1940, in fact, but the offense was little used by college teams at the time. It was ideally suited for Albert, who could either hand off to one of his three backs, keep the ball himself or pass.

Though favored Stanford was playing before a partisan California crowd of 92,000 under the warm Pasadena sun, Nebraska led the Indians twice in the first half before finally falling victim to Albert and the T-formation which the

Cornhuskers could never quite figure out how to defend — they used a 5-3-2-1 defensive alignment but were time and again confused by the deceptive moves and the sleight-of-hand trickery of the speedy Albert.

Nebraska scored first just six plays into the game when Vike Francis crashed over the goal line from two yards away. Francis returned the opening kickoff and then carried three times for 32 of the yards in the 51-yard drive to set up his touchdown play. Bill Stern, who did the play-by-play for a national radio broadcast, said "Those guards (Alfson and Schwartzkopf) are terrific."

Francis added the extra point kick; and the scoreboard read: NU 7, Stanford 0.

Stanford shut down the Cornhusker reverse plays which were so effective on that first drive, however, and Nebraska finished the game with only 58 yards net rushing. Francis was the Cornhuskers' leading rusher with 51 yards.

Shaughnessy's Indians came right back with their own touchdown, just four plays later, behind the running of Kmetovic and Gallarneau who scored

Stanford's first touchdown on a nine-yard run. Albert kicked the extra point and the score was tied, 7-7, at the end of one quarter.

Nebraska took the lead again in the second quarter when Al Zikmund recovered an Albert fumble at the Stanford 33-yard line. Herm Rohrig passed the ball to Zikmund, who out ran Gallarneau for the go-ahead touchdown — Zikmund would miss the second half after suffering a broken leg when he was tackled returning the kickoff.

At any rate, the extra-point kick following Zikmund's touchdown was blocked, but Nebraska led 13-7.

Stanford's second touchdown also came on a pass from Albert to Gallarneau in the second quarter. The play covered 41 yards and preceded an Albert extra-point kick which gave the Indians a 14-13 lead, and all the points they really needed for their third Rose Bowl victory.

Stanford scored its final touchdown in the third quarter on a 39-yard punt

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Rose Bowl

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return by Kmetovic. But it didn't come easy. The Cornhusker defense had stopped the Indians four times from the NU two-yard line.

Kmetovic surprised Nebraska with his running and his defensive play. Jones would say later. "We knew about Frankie Albert and Norm Standlee, but we didn't know about Kmetovic."

Jones also said he thought if his staff had been able to scout Stanford's T-formation more extensively, "We'd have done better." As it was, the Indians rushed for 202 yards against a staunch Husker defense which allowed more than seven points only twice during the regular season and shut out both Kansas State and Oklahoma.

Times have changed. The Rose Bowl is no longer open to the top college

football teams in the country unless, of course, they happen to play in the Pac Ten and Big Ten conferences. The Pac Ten still provides the host team, but its opponent is always limited to the Big Ten champion. Consequently, invitations from other bowl games have become just as coveted.

But there was a time when a trip to the Rose Bowl was the dream of every college football player and in 1940, Nebraska earned such a bid.

The 1941 Rose Bowl team had its 25th reunion at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln, in October of 1965. The once familiar hotel no longer exists. It too, has been left to history. "We can all be proud of the game we played there (in Pasadena)," Jones told the members of his team who came to that reunion. Sixteen years later that statement has the same significance for Nebraska football fans that it had then.

The memories are no less vivid and they are perhaps even embellished some by time.

There have been 67 Rose Bowl football games, each one important in its

own way. But for Nebraskans there is still only one Rose Bowl and it was played January 1, 1941. No one cares that Stanford won the game.

It was a great Husker team and as Ray Prochaska said, when he had to miss a 1980 reunion in Lincoln, "Whenever I start talking about the guys on the Rose Bowl team, it seems like only yesterday."

Prochaska's roots are in Nebraska: he was born and raised on a farm west of Ulysses between Seward and David City. He is representative of the then young men who played on that Rose Bowl team. "That's why we hated to miss the reunion," he said.

He was, however, "with them in spirit. Everyone should have a chance to play in the Rose Bowl," said Prochaska. "You can't beat the climate or the atmosphere."

That bowl game began a tradition which grew rapidly when Bob Devaney became Nebraska's head coach in 1962. Since then the Cornhuskers have failed to earn an invitation for post-season play only twice. ●

Thanks in a Large Part to the Members of The Nebraska Football Foundation and Hall of Fame our Bob Devaney

was deservedly elevated to the National Football Foundation & Hall of Fame. Your membership is essential to get the votes at the National level so that our former greats are recognized. Your membership includes the National dues. We also issue scholarships to needy academically deserving football players to continue their education in graduate school — *please take the time to join our chapter and support this fine program. Ladies are most welcome at our banquets and all affairs so please become members.*

H.W. Monsky

Pres.-Nebraska Chapter of the Football Foundation & Hall of Fame

Bob Billings—Treasurer—Nebraska Football Hall of Fame

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Inside Husker Sports

The Nebraska junior varsity football team of Coach Frank Solich opened its season with a pair of victories, defeating the Wyoming junior varsity 62-0 and Ellsworth Community College of Iowa Falls, Iowa, 14-9.

Freshman quarterback Todd Zart, who missed last season with a broken wrist, directed the victory over Wyoming passing to tight end Todd Frain for two touchdowns and scoring another himself. Roscoe Horne was Nebraska's leading rusher, gaining 84 yards in seven carries. Horne's total was helped along by a 52-yard touchdown run. I-back Will Curtis scored two touchdowns, on runs of five and 15 yards.

Curtis scored the young Cornhuskers' only touchdowns in their victory over Ellsworth.

Nebraska's defense came up with two crucial fumble recoveries to ensure the victory. Defensive end Tony Newton made the first recovery, and noseguard Kenneth Shead covered the second fumble with only 2:05 left in the game.

Curtis is a walk-on from Lake Clifton High School in Baltimore, Md. He rushed for more than 1,000 yards his senior year for a city championship team which finished 14-0-1. Nebraska was one of only three major colleges interested in him, however. Maryland and North Carolina State also wanted him to walk on.

All three schools were reluctant to offer him a scholarship because their coaching staffs had been unable to study films of the 6-0, 205-pound athlete with :04.6 speed for 40 yards. Films from Lake Clifton's season all were destroyed by a fire in the coaches' office.

Though he hopes to follow in the steps of Jarvis Redwine and Isaiah Hipp, two other famous Nebraska running backs who began as walk-ons, Curtis said he had never heard of either one before he got to Lincoln. "Hearing people talk about them gives me even more inspiration. I know already that I came to the right school. I figure it's going to take a lot of determination and dedication to match their success, but for a chance like theirs, I'm willing to give it."

Former Nebraska football player Andra Franklin scored the winning touchdown for the National Football

League Miami Dolphins in their 16-10 victory over the Houston Oilers in Houston on the third Sunday of the season. Franklin is one of three players off last year's Cornhusker team to stick in the NFL this fall. Minnesota running back Jarvis Redwine and New Orleans Saints defensive back Russell Gary are the others.

Nebraska football place-kicker Kevin Seibel no longer ties back the toe on his kicking shoe because "they don't allow it in the pros, and I thought I might as well get used to it now." Seibel said he spent the summer working with weights to strengthen his right ankle, and he's had to learn to concentrate more on keeping his foot up. "When I first started, I was hitting the ball too low and it wasn't going anywhere," he said, indicating that now he's beginning to feel more comfortable about the switch.

"I'm pretty close to where I was before the change," Seibel said.

Nebraska freshman football player Tim Clare was in the battle for starting monster back on the junior varsity until a knee injury sidelined him. Father and Cornhusker team physician Dr. Pat Clare let partner Dr. Chuck Newman perform the surgery.

John Falman, the offensive coordinator for the University of Missouri who was Nebraska center Dave Rimington's high school football coach at Omaha South, was asked to compare Rimington and Missouri's All-American candidate center, Brad Edelman. "Who's better? Let's put it this way. Edelman will be a first-round draft choice in 1982 and Rimington will be a first-round draft choice in 1983. You don't compare people like that. They may be playing the same position in the same conference, but as far as I'm concerned, they're both All-Americans."

During his coaching days, Nebraska athletic director Bob Devaney was entertaining his grandson and the boy asked for a fairy tale at bedtime.

"All right," said Devaney. "What would you like to hear?"

"The Three Bears," said the youngster.

"What?" Devaney exclaimed. "You mean there are two more of them?"

Devaney was honored at halftime of the Penn State-Nebraska game in celebration of College Football Hall of Fame Day. Devaney was saluted by the National Football Foundation and Hall of Fame with the presentation of his institutional Hall of Fame plaque. He will be inducted into the Hall of Fame at a dinner in New York City on Dec. 8.

Players on Devaney's first football teams at Nebraska, from 1962-66, held a reunion on the Friday night prior to the Cornhuskers' 34-14 victory over Florida State. Among the many players attending the reunion, though not all of them, were Langston Coleman, Ben Gregory, Dennis Claridge, Carel Smith, Bob Churchich, Harry Meagher, Duncan Drems, Bob Rohn, Pete Tatman, Larry Wacholtz, Jim McCord, Lynn Seakbeil, Walt Barnes, Adrian Fiata, Bernie McGlan, Dennis Stoewe, and John Vujevich.

Former Nebraska baseball player Joe Scherger led the Class A California League in triples this season with 10. Scherger, who is from Billings, Mont., and played four seasons for the Cornhuskers, hit .319 with 18 home runs and 93 runs batted in for the San Diego Padres' farm team in Reno, Nev.

Among other former Huskers who played minor league baseball during the summer, Pete O'Brien batted .225 with 17 home runs and 78 RBI for the Texas Rangers' Class AA team in Tulsa, Okla.; and Jeff Hunter hit 19 home runs and drove in 72 runs for the Winston-Salem, N.C., Class A farm team of the Boston Red Sox.

Chris Chavers hit .265 and Stan Baas hit .321 for Rookie League teams. Chavez is in the Los Angeles Dodgers organization, and Haas was signed by the St. Louis Cardinals.

Former Nebraska pitchers Tim Burke and Cliff Faust both worked in the Class A Carolina League. Burke posted an 8-19 record with a 3.44 earned-run average for the Pittsburgh Pirate farm team in Alexandria, Va. He struck out 112 in 149 innings of pitching walking only 48. Faust was a reliever for the Pirates' Lynchburg, Va. team, making

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

Inside Husker Sports

52 appearances and posting a 1-3 record with a 3.60 earned-run average.

Nebraska's Jim Hartung took the top spot in the World Cup Gymnastics Trials at Fort Collins, Colo., Sept. 17-18. Hartung outscored Oklahoma's Bart Conner 57.90-56.10 in optional competition after finishing second to Conner in the Compulsory routines, 57.75-57.45.

"Hartung put on a really dazzling display of strength and agility," Nebraska gymnastics Coach Francis Allen said.

The Cornhuskers, Scott Johnson and Phil Cahoy finished fourth and fifth with 113.25 and 112.40 points, respectively. NU's Chuck Chinelka ended 18th with 108.10 points.

Hartung finished with a two-day total of 115.35 points, while Conner and UCLA's Peter Vidmar tied for second with 113.85. The first six finishers in the trials earned spots on the United States World Cup team that will compete in Moscow in November.

Hartung, Cahoy, and Johnson will join their U.S. teammates for 10 days of workouts in Frankfurt, Germany, in preparation for the Moscow competition.

Earlier, Hartung was named the United States Gymnastics Federation (USGF) "Male Athlete of the Year," while Allen was chosen the USGF "Coach of the Year" for the first time.

Nebraska's five-time defending champion women's volleyball team hosted the Korean Junior National world champions Sept. 16 at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. The Koreans won, 15-9, 15-1, and 15-8 in the exhibition match, but NU head Coach Terry Pettit said he was satisfied with his team's effort.

The Koreans "beat the United States (junior national) team as badly as us, so we feel pretty good about that. They were probably the best ball handling team in the world, but we weren't embarrassed. When they were attacking so well in the second set, the girls hung in there."

Prior to the match with the Koreans, Pettit's Huskers finished second to Southwest Missouri State in the Mean Green Invitational at Denton, Texas.



Nebraska teammates Jamie Williams (80) and Anthony Steels (33) celebrate a touchdown.

Pettit says this may be his most talented team but it's also his youngest. Only two players, All-American Terri Kanouse, a senior, and sophomore Erin Dean were full-season starters a year ago.

One of Pettit's top recruits is junior college All-American Gwen Pell, a setter and according to Pettit, "the most complete outside hitter we've ever had."

The Nebraska men's cross country team includes six freshmen and six

returning lettermen, four of whom are sophomores. The senior lettermen are Todd Hormung and Tom Bowmaster. Sophomore lettermen include: Marc Adam, Mark Gokle, Dave Cudmore and Jeff Fagan. The Cornhusker freshmen are Jerry Guinan, Tom Hoffman, Matt Joeckel, Mark Guby, Mark Rooney, and Reynold Middleton.

Head cross country Coach Frank Sevigne is again being assisted by Mark Fluitt. Another former NU distance runner, Biran Dunnigan, is serving as a graduate assistant coach this season. ●

Johnny The Jet...

Heisman winner Rodgers created instant excitement when he touched the football, leading the Huskers to a pair of national championships. (See giant poster photo pages 24-25.)

They called him "Johnny the Jet." All you have to do is look at the color photo in this issue's centerspread and you'll know why they called him that.

When Nebraska's Johnny Rodgers touched the football, he flew through the air, just like he did on the 1971 punt return captured on film against Texas A&M.

Rodgers made a habit of flying high over the AstroTurf and putting his body on the line. He did it often enough and effective enough to become the best pass receiver and the best punt return man in Big Eight Conference history.

For someone only 5-8 and 171 pounds, Rodgers was remarkably durable. Even though he was a marked man and a vulnerable target while airborne, he withstood the physical punishment and always came back for more.

"Johnny the Jet" became one of the most popular nicknames in Cornhusker football history. Nebraska's only Heisman Trophy winner was an instant celebrity his sophomore year, helping the Cornhuskers to their first national championship in 1970.

Rodgers scored in every game but one during his sophomore season. He caught 39 passes for a school record 710 yards and rushed for another 219 yards. The statistics were impressive enough to merit All-Big Eight and Sophomore Player of the Year honors.

Rodgers' consensus All-American junior season was even more brilliant. He electrified two national television audiences with punt return touchdowns against Oklahoma in the "Game of the Century" and against Alabama in the Orange Bowl.

As a junior, Rodgers led the Big Eight in receiving and punt returns. He

led Nebraska in scoring and broke every school receiving record with another year of eligibility still remaining. He finished with 56 catches for 956 yards and scored 108 points.

His junior season featured three touchdown receptions against Minnesota and a 92-yard punt return against Oklahoma State. His 72-yard punt return against Oklahoma that year is still regarded as one of the best runs in the history of the conference.

It broke the back of an unbeaten Sooner team and led Nebraska to a 35-31 victory. "Johnny R, Superstar," accomplished the same thing in Nebraska's 38-6 rout of Alabama in the Orange Bowl. Alabama trailed only 6-0 when it was forced to punt on the final play of the first quarter. Rodgers returned it 77 yards for a touchdown and Bear Bryant's Crimson Tide never recovered.

After playing key roles on two national championship teams, everyone wondered what Rodgers would do for an encore as a senior in 1972. Bob Devaney's last year as Nebraska's head coach.

The Huskers didn't win another national championship, but they blitzed Notre Dame, 40-6, for a third consecutive Orange Bowl victory and Rodgers moved to the top of the nation's sports pages by winning the Heisman Trophy.

As a senior, Rodgers caught 58 passes for 1,013 yards and nine touchdowns. He returned 40 punts for 615 yards and two touchdowns and rushed 73 times for 348 yards and 10 touchdowns. His 21 touchdowns were 12 better than anyone else on the team.

"Johnny the Jet" was hailed as the greatest all-purpose runner in college

football history. His statistics were almost mind-boggling. In three years as a starter, he averaged almost 14 yards every time he touched the ball and averaged a touchdown every nine times he touched the ball.

Look in the Big Eight record book and you still see Rodgers' name for career catches (189), career reception yards (2,350) and career touchdown pass receptions (27).

He also holds every major Big Eight punt return record. Rodgers had seven returns for 170 yards against Oklahoma in '71. His 611 punt return yards in '72 represents a conference single-season record and his 1,651 punt return yards represent the league's career mark.

Rodgers scored four touchdowns on punt returns in '71. He shares the Big Eight career punt return touchdown record of seven with Oklahoma's Jack Mitchell.

Nebraska Athletic Director Bob Devaney called Rodgers the greatest offensive player he ever coached. Rodgers ran away with the Heisman Trophy his senior year, almost tripling the No. 1 voting totals of good friend and Oklahoma rival Greg Pruitt.

NU middle guard Rich Glover finished third in the Heisman balloting that year. LSU quarterback Bert Jones and Alabama quarterback Terry Davis completed the top five.

"Johnny the Jet" capped his collegiate career in style. In the Orange Bowl win over Notre Dame, he moved to 1-back and scored four touchdowns. His last was on a 50-yard pass from Dave Humm.

Rodgers also surprised the Irish by throwing a 52-yard pass to split end Frosty Anderson.

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Dear Big Red Mailbag:

Could you please tell me what has happened to Bill Jennings, who coached Nebraska from 1957 to 1961.

Thank you
Marshall Miller
North East, PA.

Dear Marshall:

According to the Sports Information office at NU Mr. Jennings is now living in Lincoln and is supervisor of Big Eight Conference officials.

Dear Sir:

I have a question which perhaps you can help me with. I am an AVID fan of those Cornhuskers, and graduated from the U. of N. in 1953. How can I procure a bumper sticker or something for my car so that these "Californians" will realize they do not have a monopoly on football? Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Mrs. Franks
Pleasanton, CA

Dear Mrs. Franks:

There are, of course, several shops which deal in Nebraska items such as bumper stickers. But the University affiliated outlet is the University Book Store, in care of the Student Union, University of Nebraska, 68508. If you'll write to them, perhaps they can be of assistance. Good luck, and keep on letting those West Coast folks know what a great thing we have in Husker Land.

Dear Mr. Henry:

I think your magazine is great! I am a true super-fan of Nebraska football, but since I live in Cheyenne, Wyo., it has been hard for me to get a good follow-up report after each game. Not anymore! I am proud to say, "I subscribe to **Huskies Illustrated!**"

I am looking forward to getting my future issues soon. **Huskies Illustrated** is just what I was looking for! Thank you for putting out such a fine magazine!

Sincerely,
Mike Olafson
Cheyenne, Wyo.



Dear Mr. Henry:

What a revoltin' development.

July 1 I sent you a check of \$39.90 for 2 subscriptions to **Huskies Illustrated**, one for my daughter and one for myself.

Here in Austin, Texas we hear a lot about Texas Longhorns, but when I heard someone mention that they really liked the new magazine about the Nebraska Cornhuskers, I begin to look for mine.

It never has come. I marked it off as a misunderstanding until my daughter thanked me for the subscription and said she had received copy of issues No. 1 and No. 2.

There is no denying the fact that I have been severely mistreated. After reading her copies and realizing what a fine magazine has been denied me, I have decided that there is only one way you can be forgiven. Soundly pummel the guilty person with cotton balls, and send me the back issues. Then immediately place my name in its proper place on your subscription list. Do it right NOW!

I trust this will also assure my receiving the medallion and the credit from my subscription to "Nebraska Inside Cornhusker Sports."

Thanking you,
Melvin D. Goerz
Lago Vista, TX

Dear Melvin:

If we've got to have a little slap on the wrist, that's a great way to get it. We appreciate your compliments for our publication and your patience and good humor in pointing out your problems. By this time they have been taken care of (the problems, that is, not your patience and good humor).

By the way, you'll be happy to know the person responsible for messing up that order has been flogged with cotton balls and transferred to our magazine office at Bethune Cookman. Your medallion

should be ready (along with those for our other subscribers) just about the time you are receiving this magazine. We'll let you know as soon as we have them.

Dear Sirs:

Kindly enter my father's name (in the Big 8 sweepstakes) and I pray he's lucky — he's a well known former basketball coach and loved sports.

He now has both legs removed and cancer — so maybe God willing he could still see football.

I've often thought about trying to get him a wheelchair ticket to our own University games. How and where does one get these?

Sincerely,
Donna Mackey
Crete, NE

Dear Donna:

Best of luck to you and your father in the sweepstakes. As for the wheelchair ticket, it is a good thing to point out that Nebraska does make special efforts to accomodate those who are wheelchair-bound. Call or write to the University of Nebraska Athletic Ticket office and explain your situation. They will be happy to help as best they can.

Dear Mr. Henry:

I certainly have enjoyed the first two issues of **Huskies Illustrated**. Your articles are very informative, well written and enjoyable. I hope that you continue to produce such a fine publication. I was one of the thousands that did subscribe to "Inside Cornhusker Sports," in fact, I received every issue and even sent them a check for an additional three years prior to

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Big Red Mailbag

CONTINUED FROM 23

their dissolution. Keep up the good work. I will be looking forward to your next issue.

I have also enclosed an article taken out of the August 30 Sunday Des Moines Register which smirks of considerable bias and hopefully is untrue. I have forwarded a letter to Dr. Ursula Walsh for her reply and hopefully either you or she can address this Letter to the Editor and inform the many lowans who look upon Nebraska as simply a football mill that indeed we have young men who obtain their degrees and go on even for postgraduate training.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert H. Heise, M.D.

Osage, Iowa (Class of '73 NU Medical School)

Dear Dr. Heise:

I will reprint here portions of the letter written by Russell Brandt of Council Bluffs and reprinted in the Des Moines Register, then I will relay the comments from Ms. Walsh, who is the academic counselor for Nebraska athletes.

"The Hawkeye graduation rate may be poor when compared to Iowa State but Nebraska's graduation rate may be even worse. Most Nebraska players are redshirted and spend five years in Lincoln but still only 11 of 25 seniors graduated in 1980 and 15 of 24 seniors graduated in 1981.

"Missing from these figures is the fact that Nebraska annually recruits and signs to national letters of intent 60 to 65 football players (most are classified as walk-ons without direct scholarship aid). Nebraska's graduation rate is only 25 percent or less if 60 recruits each year translate into only 11 to 15 graduates annually.

"The Nebraska game at Iowa will probably be a very exciting college football game but I would caution the fans not to ask for autographs."

Ms. Walsh was also sent a copy of the letter, and she explained a couple of points that should be made. First of all, out of the 25 seniors a total of 19 graduated, with others due to return to school to finish minimal work in between their pro seasons. The rate of graduation for those seniors she referred to is 96 percent. As for those "walk-ons" talked about, many of those

drop out of the football program, but not out of school. Whether or not they graduate is not included in figures compiled by the University. What it boils down to is this: Coach Tom Osborne, Athletic Director Bob Devaney and Ms. Walsh are — and have always been — dedicated to preparing their athletes as best possible for the business world they'll face after their athletic careers are completed. This is apparent in the large number of former NU players who are now in executive positions in businesses of all kinds....and in the interest Coach Osborne takes in his players during school and after graduation. You can doctor statistics all you want, but the proof is in the product. And Nebraska will stand tall up against any standard you want to set.

Mike Henry



Dear Mike

The Nebraska Alumni Association has traditionally held pre-game activities before each away football game. The 1981 season is no exception. We have finalized all arrangements and are looking forward to an eventful football season.

I would appreciate it very much if you could find the space in your magazine to announce our upcoming activities. This would be a great help to us in getting the word out, across the state and across the country.

Very sincerely,
Christopher G. Lofgreen
Director of Alumni Clubs,
Lincoln

Dear Christopher:

Thank you for the information and we as Husker fans appreciate the work you

people do to add to the tradition and hospitality of Nebraska football. Here is the information you asked us to pass on, and it's printed here in one of the best-read sections of the magazine:

Oct. 17 at Manhattan, Kan., prior to the K-State game, a Husker Huddle brunch at the Houston Street Restaurant & Pub, 5th and Houston, Downtown. Cash bar opens at 10 a.m. with buffet style brunch from 10:30 to 12 noon. Cost \$6.50 per person, reservations necessary.

Oct. 24 at Columbia, Mo., prior to Missouri game, at the Campus Inn, adjacent to the stadium on Stadium Blvd. Cash bar opens at 10 a.m. with buffet brunch from 10:30 to 12 noon. Cost \$6.25 per person, reservations necessary.

Nov. 7 at Stillwater, Okla., prior to Oklahoma State game, at the Redwood West, 5104 West 6th Avenue in Stillwater. Times the same as above, but cost \$7.25 per person. Reservations always required.

Nov. 21 at Norman, Okla., prior to the victory over Oklahoma, in the Holiday Inn of Norman, just off I-35 on Main Street, 2600 West Main. Same times as above, cost \$5.75 per person with reservations.

We at the **Huskies Illustrated** hope that many of you will take the time and interest to partake of good food and great fellowship as we cheer the Huskers on to a Big Eight championship and a trip to the Orange Bowl.

Big Red Mailbag:

Just received your second (2) issue of **Huskies Illustrated**. Congratulations for an excellent magazine.

Question: We are living in Fort Smith, Arkansas, and receive television through Fort Smith TV Cable Company. Is there any way we can receive Joe Patrick and Jeff Kinney's highlights of the Nebraska football games?

All help in this area would be appreciated.

Sincerely,
Duane Wilson
Fort Smith, Ark.

Dear Duane:

As far as picking up the telecasts from a station in your area, it doesn't look too good. But the NU playback show is being shown in several new areas this year, thanks to cable TV, and if you are not receiving it through your cable system, get in touch with them and ask that they pick up one of the stations which does carry the show. A complete list of the stations carrying the show is in the second issue of the magazine. Good luck! ●

'Why I Love The Huskers...'

Floyd Colon has some sincere feelings about why he thinks NU athletes and coaches are tops in the country. And the Huskers Illustrated invites you to write in and tell us why you love the Huskers, too.

"I've often asked myself the question: Why do I love the Cornhuskers?"

"I've decided the reasons are many and easily identifiable. I love the Cornhuskers because of Tom Osborne, John Sanders, Moe Iba, Francis Allen, Cal Bentz, Frank Sevine, Colleen Mat-suhara, etc., etc., etc.

"We've all heard the expression 'everybody likes a winner.' Whoever said it, of course, was referring to winners in athletic competition. It is easy to identify with a winner.

"However, in my opinion, being a winner does not always mean winning an athletic event. Being a true winner goes much deeper than that. It means not only being able to win like a true champion, but more importantly, being able to accept defeat like a true champion.

"This then, raises the question of values in athletic competition.

"The coaches I've mentioned are winners because of the values they imbue in the young people they coach. Those values will remain with the athletes long after the 'thrill of victory and the agony of defeat' are forgotten.

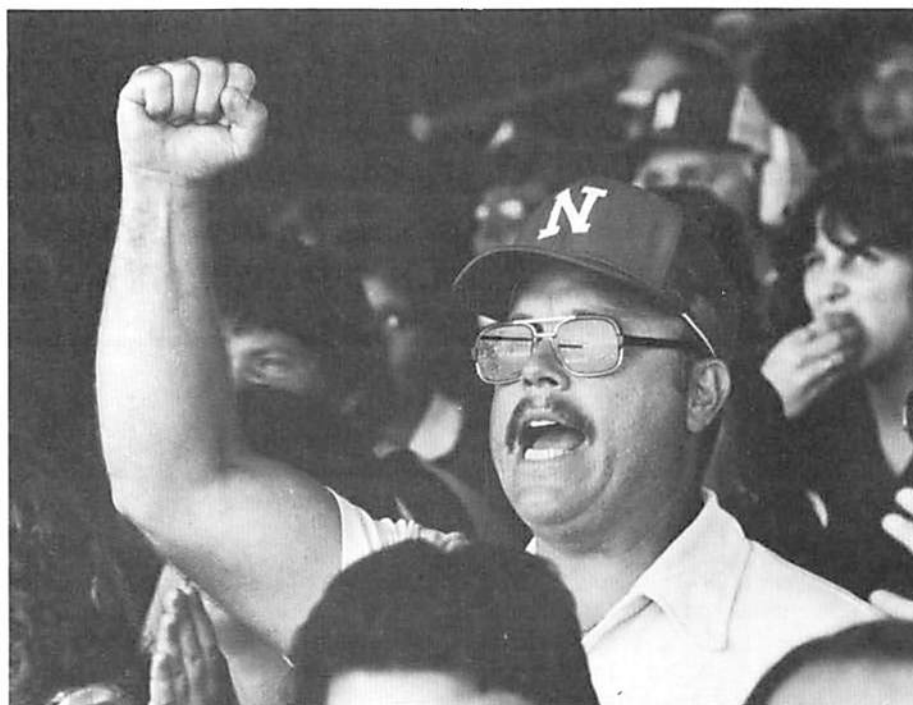
"University of Nebraska sports build character, promote integrity and develop the moral foundation needed for a successful future.

"We are fortunate to have coaches at Nebraska with capability, intelligence and versatility to work with our young people. They are proven winners.

"They are the reasons I love the Cornhuskers."

Floyd Colon, public relations officer for Nebraska's Department of Labor in Lincoln, has given Huskers Illustrated an idea for a new monthly feature.

Colon, obviously a man who bleeds



Floyd Colon — a big part of the Memorial Stadium roar!

Big Red blood, wrote us a letter telling us why he loves the Cornhuskers. It is something about which he feels strongly and something we enjoy sharing with our thousands of readers.

We believe Colon has painted the portrait of a true championship athletic program. He has accurately explained how he thinks the word champion stretches beyond mere wins and losses.

We think Floyd Colon is a true fan and we have decided to reward him for taking the time to write to us. We are giving Floyd a year's complimentary subscription to Huskers Illustrated.

Colon's letter has launched what we hope will be a monthly feature for NU

fans. We intend to call it "The Nebraska Fan: Why I Love the Cornhuskers."

You are encouraged to take a few minutes and address yourself to that theme. Please send your letters to:

**Why I Love the Cornhuskers
Box 83222
Lincoln, NE 68501**

If your letter is used in the monthly edition of Huskers Illustrated, you also will receive a year's free subscription to Nebraska's fastest growing magazine, devoted exclusively to University of Nebraska sports. Good luck and love those Cornhuskers!

The CFA And You....

While legal minds and college presidents are trying to settle this issue of who will rule the country's amateur sports scene, what can fans of university sports programs expect in the next 10 years? Is this just a power-play that will create some gradual changes on the sports scene in the next few years? Or are we about to embark upon a brave new world in college athletics?

The year is 1990 and you're sitting at home in your solar-heated house watching the Big Eight championship being decided as Nebraska and Oklahoma tangle in a sea of red. You're watching the "Game of the Decade" on....

If you're a traditionalist, you'll probably say on ABC, with Frank Broyles and Steve Davis speculating about whether or not Tom Osborne will continue his 9-year jinx against a frustrated Barry Switzer.

If you're a middle-of-the-road type, you might figure you could be watching the game on either ABC or CBS or NBC.

But if you really have an imagination and a feel for the future, you could envision yourself watching that game on cable TV, while flipping the dial around to Michigan and Ohio State on another channel, or to Southern Cal and Notre Dame on another, or even tune in and watch as Bear Bryant tries again to break

Amos Alonzo Stagg's record for most victories as a college coach as Alabama, still mired in a hapless slump, goes against arch-rival Auburn on network TV.

And while you're flexing your imagination, how many scholarship players will there be on the two sidelines of that game you're watching? How many full-time assistant coaches? When will recruiting officially begin? How will that check from TV be split among the schools? Will that be the second or third appearance of the year for the Sooners and Huskers? Or will this be the 11th straight week that they've been on either network or cable?

The College Football Association has given university athletic directors and coaches a wedge for the first time in a long, long time. It's given the NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) something to think about. Something to worry about.

But just what does the future hold for

big time college football and the CFA? Will there still be a CFA in 1990? Will there still be an NCAA?

There are a lot of coaches and administrators who thought they knew the answers to questions like those a few months ago. Thought they knew the answers until the members of the CFA voted in September to approve a television pact with NBC, thus leaving ABC and CBS holding a contract with the NCAA for the 1982-83 seasons that may or may not be worth the paper it's printed on.

And, while television rights may be the center of attention in this battle — make no mistake about it, this is a battle — for power, the basic issue goes a lot deeper than what channel you will be turning to when you want to see your favorite college football team each fall.

The NCAA has never been the ultimate in popularity among athletic directors and coaches, of course. Its

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

enforcement division, out of necessity, makes a few enemies year in and year out. But any organization that attempts to govern college athletics is going to have to have an enforcement division. And any enforcers who penalize schools with large followings are going to find it difficult to retain a nice guy image.

Enforcement is not the issue, though there has certainly been reason for some schools to feel violations and penalties are a long way from matching up in similar situations for different schools.

What is at issue is which schools are allowed to make the rules, in what direction those rules should be leading and how the income from college athletics — in particular football — should be divided.

The controversy over which schools are allowed to make the rules has been boiling for years. But as long as the smaller schools did not get pushy about things, the larger schools kept a lid on their collective temper.

Then came the idea of parity. "The quality or state of being equal or equivalent." An odious word for those

in athletics, certainly. Unless you're on the bottom trying to get up.

That's what many thought would happen when the "have-nots" of the NCAA got together and used their superior numbers in the vote to push through legislation which limited the number of assistant coaches a school could employ, came up with a new math concept which said that four times 30 equals 95 and decided that if America's television viewers saw enough of Mississippi Valley State and Bethune Cookman on the tube, those viewers would forget about the fact that Oklahoma and Nebraska would be available in highlight films only.

After all, what did those small schools (there are 700-plus schools in the NCAA, and each of them has a vote) have to worry about? This was not the 1800s. Lincoln was not President. The Big Eight, Southwest Conference and those guys certainly wouldn't secede from the NCAA.

And that was the general attitude. WAS. The small schools could obtain parity through legislation, if not through

a dedication to making their programs better and coming up to the standards of the major schools they envied.

The major schools did not jump immediately into the CFA. The first approach, and the one which should have worked, was "reorganization." That is, the Division I (largest schools) would come up with guidelines for belonging to the upper echelon.

This demand by the big schools for reorganization of Division I has been going on for five years. But it has never really come off the way the major powers wanted it to. Walter Byers, Executive Director of the NCAA, has long known the power of the small schools (83 percent of those voting on TV contracts, for example, have never appeared on a televised football game, and many of those don't even have teams!) in his organization. He keeps them happy. They keep him in control. Most NCAA committees are controlled by representatives of smaller schools and, reportedly, answer to Byers more often than not.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

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There are now 137 members in Division I-A. Criteria for belonging to that Division was established in the 1978 NCAA Convention in Atlanta, and includes: 1, an institution must sponsor a minimum of eight varsity intercollegiate sports, including football in Division I, and play at least 60 percent of its football games against other Division I-A members; 2, meet one of the two following standards — average home football attendance of at least 17,000 during the previous four years, or a home stadium containing at least 30,000 permanent seats and average attendance of 17,000 or more in at least one of the past four seasons.

This measure was approved by the Division I membership. Also approved was an amendment allowing an institution sponsoring 12 or more varsity sports, including football and basketball, in Division I to be a I-A member, provided again that at least 60 percent of its football foes were in I-A.

This amendment was known as the "Ivy amendment" because many schools felt it was written and approved to include the Ivy League in I-A.

When it became apparent to the larger schools that they were going to war without weapons, the CFA was born.

Its infancy was nothing spectacular. A few whimpers from a baby wanting a diaper changed or a bottle warmed. The smaller schools in the NCAA were not exactly shaking in their boots.

Then came the famous CFA meeting August 21 in Atlanta....the meeting in which members voted to approve a proposed contract by NBC-TV to televise games involving CFA schools beginning in 1982.

The NCAA had just signed a contract expanding TV coverage from ABC only to ABC and CBS.

For the record, here is what has transpired:

The CFA ratified the \$180 million, four-year pact with NBC to show college football in prime time each Saturday throughout the season, leaving ABC and CBS to fight over Saturday afternoon features like Youngstown State and Nicholls State and James Madison

(although officially the Big 10 and Pac-10 have not joined the CFA).

The NCAA threatened to take "appropriate action" against any schools that stand with that contract (a final approval by the CFA members has been postponed until December).

The CFA rebounded when Texas, Oklahoma and Georgia all filed lawsuits aimed at prohibiting any such action taken against the schools and asking for a ruling on whether the individual schools have the right to market their own TV rights.

The NCAA announced it would hold a special meeting (only the fourth of its kind) Dec. 3-4 in St. Louis.

The CFA schools, thinking they had a partial victory, assumed the television issue would be answered at that special convention. They have since found out they were wrong. The meeting, as announced by the NCAA NEWS, will "consider a series of amendments that would restructure the membership of Division I and Division I-A football."

In its Sept. 15 issue, the NCAA NEWS quotes NCAA President James Frank, "The Council believes that a special Convention is appropriate because a substantial number of Division I institutions want the opportunity to consider the recommendations of the governance committee in a session separate from the normal Convention proceedings, when a great many other issues are before the membership. The Council has also voted to sponsor the several proposals from the governance committee, subject to final review of the actual legislation."

The governance committee, again according to that Sept. 15 report, "had been considering revisions of division membership criteria since December 1979." And that "the demand for a special Convention came after the College Football Association contracted with NBC television for a four-year football television package apart from the NCAA's four-year, \$263.5 million package with ABC and CBS."

In other words, the CFA deal with NBC got the NCAA off its rear end, if you can keep up with all the initials.

Texas has already obtained a restraining order from a state district judge preventing the NCAA from penalizing the school or any other school which goes along with the CFA package with NBC.

Oklahoma had a ruling that would have delayed anything final until after

the special Convention in December. But, when the judge and the officials at OU found out the meeting in St. Louis would not deal with the television rights of the schools, it was back to the courtroom.

There are schools, on both sides of the fence, who hope that the December meeting in St. Louis will provide an immediate solution to the problem. Certainly, there are members of the CFA who have stepped timidly into the hot water and wished they could wake up and find it was all just a bad dream.

That those schools are involved at all, however, is an indication of just how serious the problem is.

For many, it is a matter of survival. With the passage of Title IX (guaranteeing the rights of women's athletic programs in the universities), funding such sports as wrestling, baseball, gymnastics and others became a serious challenge. In some cases it proved too much.

At most schools, football carries the load for the rest of the athletic program. For football to continue carrying that load, it must make a lot of money. To make money it must have support — support in numbers at the stadiums and support in dollars from private donations to the athletic program.

When Memorial Stadiums in Lincoln, Nebraska and Norman, Oklahoma, and at Michigan and Ohio State and UCLA and USC and Alabama begin filling up only half way, or even two-thirds, for home football games, the football program isn't the only thing that's going to suffer.

College presidents, trying hard to maintain the proper balance of athletics and academics, realize how much revenue is generated each year by successful football programs. A wealthy alumnus is much more apt to donate to a college scholarship or building fund or endowment if he's been out watching his ole alma mater kick the rest of the league.

Excellence. Some schools demand it. Some strive for it. Some feel it's just too hard to achieve. But it certainly pays dividends.

Parity. The smaller schools of the NCAA don't demand it. But they're certainly doing what they can to bring it about.

Parity will not be the little extra that convinces an alumnus with plenty of money to make a donation to his alma mater. Winning a conference championship might. Or a national championship.

Or even a bowl trip.

That is what those reluctant presidents of many universities realize. And they also realize that the road to excellence cannot be found easily through the NCAA. Too much excellence will just bring about some more legislation trying to swing the pendulum back toward parity.

Thus the CFA, unveiling its first nuclear weapon in the NBC-TV package, has served notice that two can play the game the NCAA has dominated for so long. The major schools are no longer being held hostage. They're toe-to-toe with Byers and the smaller schools.

And the CFA schools have an ally in NBC. That network was more than a little miffed at losing rights to televise NCAA basketball and its playoffs, a package that has been growing and growing in popularity.

The prime-time football package that has currently been approved by the CFA was previously offered to the NCAA, according to NBC Sports executive Don Ohlmeyer in a story printed in the Sept. 8 Football News.

Will that December meeting in St. Louis iron out the problems...mend all the fences...heal the wounds? Chances

are, it will not.

The chances of the NCAA doing an about face and welcoming back the "disillusioned rebels" with open arms and unlimited changes in the current structure are slim — perhaps not even that good.

The chances that the CFA would accept any concessions as a sign of good faith and disband on the spot are even slimmer.

As long as they are legally protected from the enforcement arm of the NCAA, members of the new group will likely continue to pursue their goals of legislation that will encourage excellence, not parity. And, if they need their own TV package to fund that excellence, they'll go after it.

How firm the less enthusiastic members of the CFA stand under the public and private threats of the NCAA will determine the success of this attempt to change the future of college athletics. If the wall of determination begins crumbling, there won't be enough of the CFA left to do battle, even with the new weapon.

And that new weapon is not over-rated in effectiveness. The advent of cable TV and the satellite has opened up a world of new opportunities in athletics.

If the hands of college administrators are not tied by the NCAA and rules passed to restrict the major powers, television funds could save program after program after program.

Utopia? Not hardly. Once the CFA has the awesome responsibility of governing major college athletics (and there can be little doubt that, if successful, the CFA would suddenly branch out to the College Wrestling Association and College Basketball Association, or simply the College Athletic Association), it will find that the NCAA had many thankless jobs that had to be done.

Is the leadership there to handle that kind of challenge? You'll get different answers from different sources. But in Chuck Neinas, former Big Eight Commissioner, the CFA has a strong leader with experience and direction. Neinas is sure to get cooperation from the member schools in going about the business of putting the "provider" schools back in the driver seat of their own programs.

The fact that Penn State's Joe Paterno, Missouri's Henry Lowe, Oklahoma's Dan Gibbens, Notre Dame's Rev. Edmund P. Joyce, Clemson's Bill McLellan and Georgia's Fred Davison are among the inner circle of the new organization is comforting. ●

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Abbott Organizes Huskers Off The Field

In his fifth year as NU head manager, Glen Abbott is noted for his detailed work in being sure the Cornhuskers take the field with the best equipment.

Glen Abbott, in his fifth year as head manager for the Nebraska football team, is an admitted "listmaker." He's always been that organized.

When he made his first road trip with the Cornhuskers in 1977, for instance, Abbott had his equipment van loaded and ready to roll on Thursday. Nebraska was leaving Lincoln on Friday morning for Manhattan, Kan., where the Huskers would play Kansas State on Saturday afternoon.

Abbott was so determined to be prepared that he drove the loaded van home with him that Thursday night. The next morning dawned cold and frosty, and Abbott went out and started the van so it could warm up while he had his morning coffee.

He left the van running in the driveway, and he left the keys locked inside the van, a potential crisis-causing mistake which was quickly averted with the aid of a coat hanger. Among other things, Abbott is resourceful, another quality indispensable to an equipment manager.

And because Abbott is both organized and resourceful, Nebraska can travel "light" when the Cornhuskers must go on the road for a football game. In fact, Abbott says "we travel as light as any team in the country."

When he packs for the road, Abbott will take a bag for each player, the coaches' bags and equipment and two or three trunks. On a bowl trip, which requires setting up shop for a week or more, he might take eight trunks of equipment, and as far as he's concerned, that's plenty. Next season's visit to Hawaii probably will require five trunks.

No matter where Nebraska is headed,

Abbott will pack heavy capes. He does that whether the Cornhuskers' destination is Boulder, Colo., or Miami, Fla. The capes are the "bulkiest item, but we always take them because you never know what's going to happen."

He also packs extras like shoestrings, complete sets of pads, and pants in each size, just in case someone forgets. During Abbott's tenure at Nebraska, no one has, even though each player is responsible for packing his travel bag, which includes a helmet, game uniform and shoes.

Abbott's job is keeping Nebraska's football team equipped, and he carries out his responsibility from an office in the basement of the South Stadium, his window facing the bulletin board just outside the varsity locker room.

Through that window pass countless sets of sweat clothes and towels, which are washed there at the rate of about six loads a day during an average week of practice.

Abbott is assisted by Walt Johnson, who handles the freshman football team from his own office in the North Stadium fieldhouse. Steve Sintek and Todd Cook work part-time as student assistants in the two equipment rooms.

Gib Babcock, Abbott's predecessor, said by the time he was ready to retire, he preferred every game to be at home, but "I really enjoy the road games and going to other places," Abbott says, pointing with anticipation at scheduled visits to Auburn, Penn State and Hawaii in 1982 and back-to-back games at UCLA and Syracuse in 1984.

Traveling around the Big Eight can mean putting up with some cramped visitor's dressing rooms, places that can be "so small that when you get

everything set up, people are walking all over each other." But that's a minor irritant, and "I like seeing the other facilities and making a lot of new friends," he says.

Because of his job, Abbott finds he has lots of "friends" who come to him in search of genuine Cornhusker souvenirs. Torn jerseys are among the most popular items. "Everybody who comes by the window would like you to give them something, from the little kids up to the grandpas. They always seem to think they're the only ones," says Abbott.

"If I gave something to everyone who asked, there wouldn't be anything left in here. Besides, it's not mine to give. My job is to control it, not give it away."

Such requests aren't the most bothersome part of his job, however. Abbott says he really has little about which to complain, but the "most tedious part of it is cleaning helmets."

Prior to the start of fall camp, he spends 10 to 12 days, eight hours a day, fixing helmets. Abbott spends about an hour on each one, taking it apart, inspecting it, applying new red stripes and number decals, cleaning it and giving it a couple of coats of wax. "It gives me peace of mind knowing they're in good shape," Abbott says.

Cleaning helmets is just one part of his yearly routine. The calendar taped to the large washing machine just inside the door to his office lists his other responsibilities, already planned through most of the rest of the season.

"You can never get caught behind," he says. "In this job you've got to be organized; you've got to discipline yourself."

Abbott is, and he has. ●

Huskers In The Pros...

Wortman Keeps On Going

Beginning his 10th NFL season, former NU star has been plagued by knee injuries. But 'pride' keeps him in the game with the St. Louis Cardinals.

By Randy York

He wears big, awkward braces on both legs. They're uncomfortable and they're painful. But Keith Wortman is used to them, so he ignores them. At age 31, the starting offensive right guard on Nebraska's 1971 national championship team is still starting, at offensive left tackle, for the St. Louis Cardinals.

"I don't know what keeps me going. Maybe it's stupidity. Maybe it's pride. All I know is I don't look beyond each Sunday," Wortman said. "In this game, you can't. If you do, you get pounded."

The battle scars are obvious. Last year, just when Wortman looked like he might challenge for all-pro honors in his ninth NFL season, he underwent a third operation on his left knee. The first two operations were before his junior and senior seasons at Nebraska.

Although surgery has not been required on his right knee, Wortman also has suffered severely stretched ligaments during the 1978 and '79 seasons.

"If you want to keep playing, you've got to stay healthy," Wortman said. "The braces look a lot worse than they are. It's just like wearing a pair of boots for the first time. Once you break 'em in, you get used to 'em."

Wortman experienced terrible swell-

ing and torn cartilage in five places last year. But he would still rather look at his knees than the man who lines up next to him, St. Louis offensive left guard Terry Stieve. "He looks like a warrior test market," Wortman said. "I've seen some bad knees, but his may be the worst I've seen."

The question is a good one. Why? Why would anyone endure so much?

In Keith Wortman's case, pride really is the answer. He's always been the unsung hero. On Nebraska's 1970 national championship team, he was the swing man at both guards, alternating with Donnie McGhee and Dick Rupert. McGhee was named All-Big Eight that season. From the '71 national championship team, Rupert made All-Big Eight. Wortman managed to get lost in the shuffle of a quality offensive line. In Bob Newton and Carl Johnson, the Cornhuskers also had All-Big Eight tackles in both national championship seasons.

Wortman was considered a possible diamond in the rough, but because of his two knee operations, pro teams were skeptical. The Green Bay Packers didn't draft him until the 10th round. It took Wortman two years to become a Packer starter.

In '73, he had a brief trial at center. In '74, Wortman became the Packer's

starting left tackle. In '75, he started at right guard. In '76, he was released. Green Bay tried to resign him. But the NFL told the Packers they could not sign him because Wortman had been placed on the injured reserve list during the preseason, then released on waivers.

Because of an oversight by Green Bay Coach Bart Starr, Wortman had not been reactivated in time. Starr admitted the Packers goofed. He apologized to the fans and to Wortman, but had to let him become a free agent, available to any team in the league except Green Bay.

"At that point, I had no plans," Wortman recalled. "I was taking a wait-and-see attitude. I was ready to be swallowed up." To the rescue came the Cardinals. They picked him up and beefed him up.

"I was very fortunate to go to St. Louis," Wortman admitted. "To play this game, you have to have confidence in yourself. I didn't have it. I came to the Cardinals weighing 240 pounds (two more than he weighed at Nebraska). Jim Hanifan (St. Louis offensive line coach) saw something in me. He told me to build myself up and come back for camp. That's what I did, and everything has worked out since."

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Although Wortman is only 6-foot-2, he added 35 pounds. The extra weight, combined with hundreds of hours in the weightroom, a renewed sense of confidence, good coaching and tremendous teamwork, allowed Wortman to claw his way to the top.

In '79, the Cardinals began a campaign to promote Wortman for all-pro. "I had hopes of making it in '78," he said. "But I got moved around on the line, then missed a couple games because of injury." Wortman had a good season in '79, then went down with the knee injury during the second regular-season game in '80. He spent the rest of the season on injured reserve.

It meant more hard work and another uphill battle for Wortman, but he was determined to accept the challenge at least one more time. "I am not the most gifted athlete in the world," he said, "I'm not even a natural athlete. I never really developed my confidence either, until I got to Nebraska."

In three years of high school football at Whittier, Calif., and two years as a starter at Whittier's Rio Hondo JC, Wortman never played for a winning team. His three high school teams went 0-9, 3-6 and 4-4-1. At Rio Hondo, he played on teams that went 0-8-1 and 2-6-1. After playing on five losers, Wortman's next experience was starting on a national championship.

"I didn't know what it was like to win and found out it was fun," said Wortman, who narrowed his 30 major college scholarship offers to Nebraska, Southern Cal and San Diego State. In '70, he started against USC in the Coliseum before losing the job to fellow Californian Rupert.

Not starting "made me take a new look at things," Wortman said. "It was the first time I hadn't been a starter. But I looked around and saw others trading off, too. . . Jerry Tagge and Van Brownson, Jeff Kinney and Joe Orduna, Wally Winter and Carl Johnson. . . it made me realize a lot of good players didn't start every game."

Wortman emphasized teamwork at Nebraska and he's never lost that priority in the pros. "My peer group deserves the credit," Wortman says of the Cardinal offensive line. "We all work together and boost each other. We all have big egos, but we blend them together to make it work for all of us. We take pride in what we accomplish

CONTINUED ON 40

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Husker Cheerleaders Flip Over New Routines

Gymnastics makes move into Nebraska pep squad as they seek to add a 'little more flair and a little more dynamics' to an already top-notch show.

If Nebraska cheerleading routines look more like gymnastics, there are three good reasons: 1) co-captain Vicki Renner is a former gymnast from Lincoln Northeast; 2) co-captain Mike Eaton is former gymnast from Bellevue; and 3) sponsor-coach Dan Kendig is Nebraska's assistant women's gymnastics coach.

"We think it gives us a little more flair and a little more dynamics," said Kendig, who was a cheerleader at the University of Kentucky when the Wildcats won the 1978 NCAA basketball championship. "Gymnastics is becoming more popular every year at cheerleading clinics. You can really see the influence spreading."

It seemed only natural to catch on at Nebraska, the three-time defending NCAA champions in gymnastics. Athletes from that team contribute to football Saturdays, tumbling like crazy through the end zone after a Nebraska touchdown.

Steve Elliott, a world-class tumbler, NCAA floor exercise champion and national AAU vaulting champion, has offered his expertise to this year's cheerleading squad.

"He's something to watch," Eaton said of Elliott. "He puts on an awesome display. He really gets people going."

Elliott spends his summers teaching Universal Cheerleaders Association

clinics at colleges and universities in the southern United States. Last August, Nebraska's six women and six men cheerleaders attended a one-week clinic at Memphis State University. It is considered the biggest and best cheerleading clinic in the country.

"It really helped us," Eaton said. "I think we all learned something. There were 800 cheerleaders from all over the country. We exchanged a lot of ideas and picked up a lot of new tricks. We were determined to do more gymnastics, but we didn't all have the background. So it's been a little slow, but we've all worked hard. When we started, only three of us could do a back handspring. Now, 11 of us can. That isn't the easiest thing in the world to learn at age 20."

For Eaton, though, it was easy. At Bellevue, he competed in trampoline, floor exercise and vaulting. He also was a diver on the school's swimming team. "I was a cheerleader in high school — the first male cheerleader our school ever had," he said.

It was so much fun that Eaton couldn't resist the opportunity to cheer for Big Red. Even though he's in his third year on the cheerleading squad, he admitted his election as co-captain came as "a complete surprise. It's an honor. I take it seriously and work very hard at trying to improve the things we do."

Alex Ford of Grant is the only other holdover from last year's NU male cheerleading squad. Joining Eaton and Ford as first-year cheerleaders are Jerry Friedman of Ogallala, Scott Shell of Waverly, Wally Cotton of Lincoln High and Jeff Castle of North Platte.

Castle is the most conspicuous of the group. He's a 6-2, 200 pound former high school football player and wrestler. Friedman is considered an outstanding volleyball player. Cotton teaches cheerleading during the summer. Shell has taken dancing lessons for the last 12 years.

"We're doing some fairly impressive things," Eaton said. "We can't shake our bodies like the women can, but we can grab people and throw them eight to 10 feet in the air. It has a nice effect. With gymnastics becoming more a part of cheerleading, you're seeing more guy-to-guy routines as well as guy-lifts-girl routines."

Eaton is convinced that Kendig's insistence to reduce last year's cheerleading squad from 17 to 12 this year has made a dramatic difference. It has increased communication, simplified and reduced the danger of pyramid-building and reduced the overall costs of travel.

Renner, a 4.0 student, is equally enthusiastic about the changes. "We're

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE



Husker fans are enjoying more acrobatics from the NU cheerleaders this year.

a much more cohesive unit this year," she said. "People have already noticed Dan Kendig's influence. He hasn't eliminated pom poms, but we've learned that pom poms don't motivate crowds. We're more into the crowd involvement cheers."

Kendig spent the summer working at a gymnastics camp in Pennsylvania. Like a true coach, he insisted that his team work hard in the off-season. He returned in August, convinced that they had. Last spring, Nebraska cheerleaders worked out two hours a night together. They continued to work out separately during the summer and launched back into two-hour nightly workouts this fall. On Fridays, the cheerleaders practice with the Cornhusker Marching Band.

"We've developed a close-knit group," Eaton said. "Once in a while we get on each others' nerves, but that happens with any group. We're all working for the same cause. Our goal is to put on a good show."

Since five of the Cornhuskers' six female cheerleaders are holdovers from last year's squad, continuity has been fairly easy. Returning with Renner are Karen Madsen, also of Lincoln Northeast; Jane Porter of Nebraska City; Sandy Satrapa of Omaha; and Sharon Rosser of Dayton, Ohio. The newcomer is Terri Kozil of Omaha.

Porter had a love for football long before she enrolled at Nebraska. Her grandfather and father both lettered at Nebraska. Two brothers, Budge and Scott, both earned full football scholar-

ships at NU. Budge suffered a spinal injury, but is still a familiar fixture at most NU athletic contests. Scott, a sophomore running back, is sidelined with a knee injury.

"We all love Nebraska football," Eaton said. "I've been in a lot of stadiums, but I've never seen a crowd like I see in Lincoln, Nebraska, on a football Saturday. Big Red fans are the greatest in the country. They're fun to cheer for."

Nebraska's cheerleaders are not opposed to ideas used by rival schools. "Missouri's students sit up high, so they're around the top edge of the stadium," Eaton said. "They have a cheer where one side yells 'M—I—Z' and the other side yells 'Z—O—U.' It's an impressive sound."

Big Red cheerleaders planned a similar cheer for Memorial Stadium as part of the new philosophy of increased fan participation.

"Realistically," Kendig said, "crowds aren't going to chant much beyond 'Go Big Red' or 'Defense'. I've wanted to try something at Nebraska that went over big at Kentucky."

Kentucky used a cheer where half the stadium yelled "Blue" and the other half yelled "White". Kendig's plan is to change blue to red. "The cheer knocks you out," he said. "It's a lot better than having the scoreboard ask the North Stadium to yell and scream. I think Memorial Stadium will go nuts. Nebraska fans should be deafening."

Eaton and Renner, however, did not use the new crowd cheer in Nebraska's first two home games against Florida State and Penn State. "It's tough to pull off in such emotional games," Eaton said. "You almost need a lopsided game to get organized for the first time. Trying to get most of 76,000 fans yelling the same thing is not that easy."

An alternative has been "Mad Mike," the favorite of the fans at Kansas City Chiefs' games. Mad Mike has become a regular at NU games. "He gets right up in the crowd, pounds the drum and really gets people going," Eaton said. "It's pretty crazy, but it's effective."

It's also better than the cowbells Mississippi State fans brought to last year's Sun Bowl game against Nebraska. "I thought they were a little obnoxious," Eaton said. "But they were good for unity. They let the team know their fans were there. And when you stop to think about it, that's why we're cheerleaders." ●

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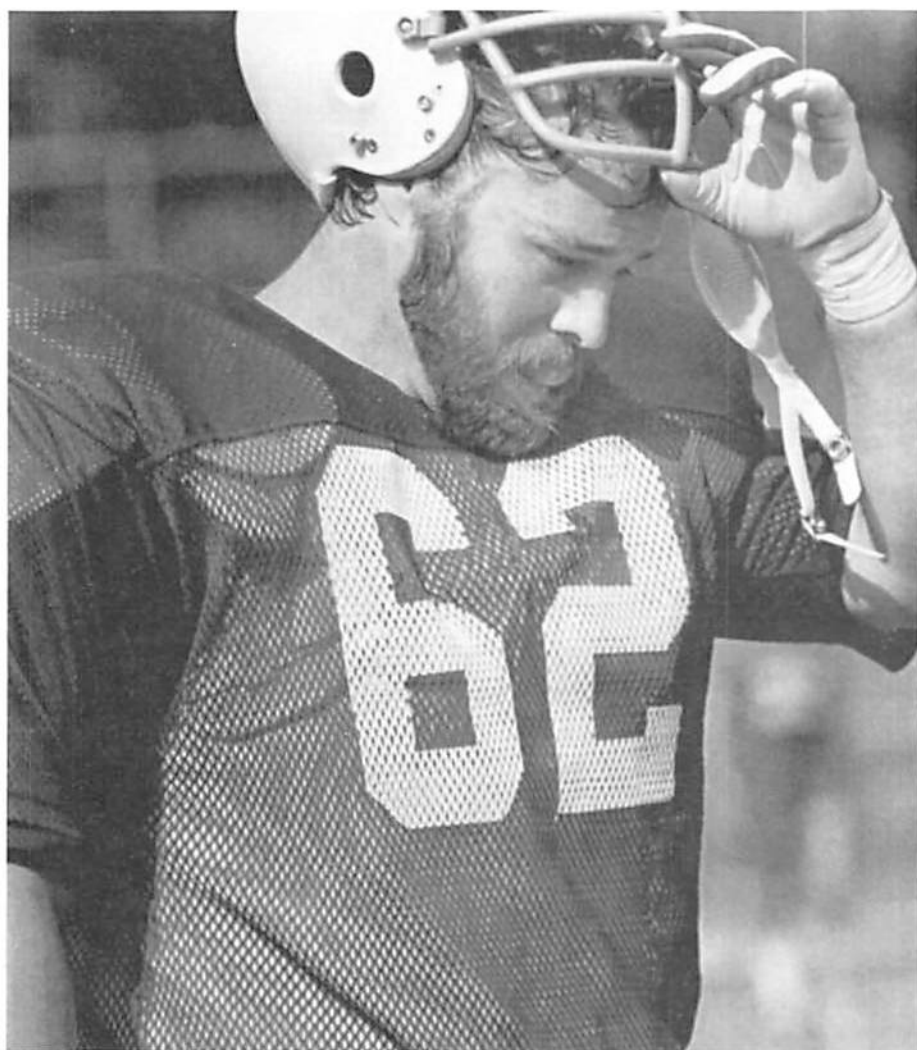
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Wortman

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Keith Wortman of the St. Louis Cardinals

individually and together. Individual recognition comes easier when you win games.

"When you get to my age, you want personal things," Wortman said. "But winning is still No. 1. We know we have the physical skills. It's just a matter of correcting the mental mistakes."

When that inevitable retirement day arrives, Wortman will be ready. His off-season business is headquartered in St. Louis. He and a partner own the rights to the lucrative Sports Illustrated poster business. They are also entering into business ventures involving rodeos.

In January, they are underwriting a five-week American rodeo in Mexico for Mexican television. They are also negotiating business deals for the sport in other unlikely places that Wortman cannot discuss.

What's a Californian like Keith Wortman doing in a business like rodeo?

"It's not as unusual as you think," he said, explaining that he was born in Billings, Mont., and attended a one-room country schoolhouse through the fifth grade.

Wortman's grandparents ran a huge ranch with 6,000 head of cattle for the Hunt Oil Co near Cody, Wyo. "For six years, I spent six days a week all summer long on that ranch," Wortman said. "I never competed in rodeo, but I always loved to watch it."

Basically, Wortman feels the same way now. He'll continue to watch the sport, but has no urge to participate. With his knees, he'd like to be able to walk after football. He hopes it's not asking too much.

Huskers In The Pros

Nebraska has proven to be one of the most fertile hunting grounds for National Football League talent scouts in recent years, as evidenced by 24 former Huskers now on pro rosters.

Featured in this month's *Huskers Illustrated* is a feature story on St. Louis Cardinal lineman Keith Wortman. You'll be seeing features on other former Huskers in the NFL during the year.

Listed below are the former Nebraska players on NFL rosters at press time. Those on the injured reserve list are John Lee, San Diego; Tom Davis, Denver; Bob Nelson, Oakland; Tim Smith, Houston; and Joe Adams, St. Louis.

NFL HUSKERS

Name, Ht., Wt., Pos., (Yrs)	Team
George Andrews, 6-3, 223, LB (3)	Rams
Bill Barnett, 6-4, 252, DE (1)	Dolphins
Kelvin Clark, 6-3, 245, OT (3)	Broncos
Barney Cotton, 6-5, 251, OG (3)	Cards
Tony Davis, 5-11, 210, RB (6)	Bucs
John Dutton, 6-7, 264, DT (8)	Cowboys
Andra Franklin, 5-10, 228, FB (R)	Dolphins
Mike Fultz, 6-5, 268, DE (5)	Dolphins
Russell Gary, 5-11, 197, DB (R)	Saints
Willie Harper, 6-2, 215, LB (8)	49ers
Rod Horn, 6-4, 268, NT (1)	Bengals
Lee Kunz, 6-2, 225, LB (3)	Bears
Junior Miller, 6-4, 235, TE (2)	Falcons
Bob Newton, 6-5, 260, OG (11)	Seahawks
Ray Phillips, 6-4, 217, LB (5)	Eagles
Jarvis Redwine, 5-11, 204, RB (R)	Vikings
Stan Waldemore, 6-4, 257, OL (4)	Jets
Don Westbrook, 5-10, 184, WR (5)	Pats
Keith Wortman, 6-2, 275, OT (10)	Cards

Nebraska Sports Information Director Don Bryant is in his 19th year as a member of the University athletic department, and he's still doing his job better than anyone in the country.

Bryant, also an assistant athletic director, was honored this past year as the winner of the Arch Ward Memorial Award, that is the highest honor that can be bestowed by the College Sports Information Directors Association, and is presented for outstanding contributions to the profession.

Bryant was president of the group in 1979 and a member of the board of directors. He joined the staff in 1963 as the NU sports information director.

A native of Lincoln, "The Fox" was named to the College Sports Information Directors America Hall of Fame in 1975.





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Bates Dealing Out Blocks, Punishment

Husker fullback leads the way for his I-Back, and still finds time to make some big gains of his own. But it's been a long haul and a lot of hard work.

Phil Bates sat in the Nebraska locker room following the Florida State football game and discussed his afternoon's work. They weren't his only blocks, of course, but twice during the game the senior fullback from Omaha had helped open gaping holes in the Seminole defensive line for I-back Roger Craig.

Craig went through the first hole on an isolation play early in the game, for a 37-yard gain. The second time, in the fourth quarter, he followed Bates until he was free and then raced 94 yards to score a touchdown on a play which tied the Nebraska school record for longest touchdown run from scrimmage.

By Craig's second run, Bates was having a difficult time finding the linebacker he was supposed to block on these "iso" plays. That Seminole "was trying to hide," Bates said. Florida State's linebackers "got a little tired as the game went along because if I wasn't beating on them, our guards were."

Bates beat on Florida State defenders with his shoulders, his forearms and his hands. After the game, both hands were packed in ice. "These are (Mike) Corgan hands. You've got to hit 'em (defenders) with whatever you can," said Bates, who wanted to make certain that Nebraska's offensive linemen received some recognition, too. "Our linemen did a good job. That's the only way we can get going. It makes things pretty easy when those guys are moving people. They came off the ball and just dropped guys."

Corgan is Nebraska's offensive backs coach, and he encourages those who play for him to deal out more punishment than they take. It's all part of the job, a



Phil Bates picks up Husker yardage against Florida State.

job Bates takes seriously and does well. "I just try to do the best I can do," he said.

"I don't look back on games. When a game is finished, it's over. I just have to get better from week-to-week. You can always get better."

A look back at his football career shows just how hard Bates has worked to get where he is this season. It's been a long haul, with more obstacles than thrills, more disappointments than glory. But Bates finally became Nebraska's No. 1 fullback last spring, replacing four-year letterman Andra Franklin, now with the Miami Dolphins of the National Football League.

Stepping in for Franklin wasn't the easiest way to make a name for himself, but Bates said it was worth the effort to

him. Being a Cornhusker starter makes up for a lot.

Bates says now he should have begun his college career at Nebraska instead of leaving Omaha for Forest City, Iowa, and Waldorf Junior College, where he teamed, briefly, with Cornhusker defensive tackle Henry Waechter. "I wish I had walked on here as a freshman. Nebraska gave me the opportunity, but I guess I wanted to prove myself first," Bates said.

He was never really able to prove himself in high school because injuries hampered his development as an athlete. He started the first football game of the season as a sophomore at Omaha Central High School but suffered a broken leg and missed the rest of the schedule. His junior year at Central, the only one

in which he was able to play regularly, the Eagles went 0-9. "That didn't help much," said Bates.

He transferred to Omaha Burke for his senior year, but that didn't change his luck because before he could establish himself there, a torn cartilage slowed him down. He was never named all-state, all-conference, or even all-city. Nebraska's sports information staff couldn't have had an easy time writing a capsule on Bates for the NU media guide.

His career certainly has not been cluttered with honors.

Bates never got discouraged, though. At least he never gave up on himself. His senior year at Burke, he got what he still considers some good advice from John Johnette, the head basketball coach who cut him from the team.

"Coach Johnette told me nothing good was going to come without hard work, and that's the outlook I've taken," he said.

A need to get his academic work in better order, a desire to get away from Omaha, and the will to prove himself, sent Bates to Waldorf Junior College. His record for being ignored when it came time for post-season recognition was kept intact. Waldorf didn't work out, not even for a complete season, so Bates transferred to Ellsworth Community College in Iowa Falls, Iowa, for the next football season, hoping to change his luck and make a new start.

At Ellsworth, Bates met Randy Brooks, another Omahan, from Creighton Prep High, who had played freshman football at Nebraska. Brooks later returned to Nebraska and established himself as one of the top track performers in the Big Eight, as both a sprinter and hurdler. He's a senior this fall.

"Randy Brooks had a big influence on me, a tremendous influence," Bates said.

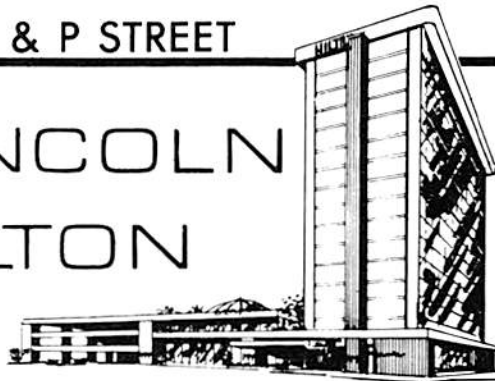
Through his stints at both Waldorf and Ellsworth, Bates was not forgotten by Nebraska, which kept in touch by keeping him on its mailing list. As a result, his final transfer was to Nebraska for the spring semester of 1978. The struggle did not end there, however. Bates spent a red-shirt season in 1979 and ran at No. 3 fullback behind Franklin and Jim Kotera last fall. His college varsity statistics read: 14 carries, 90 yards.

CONTINUED ON 44



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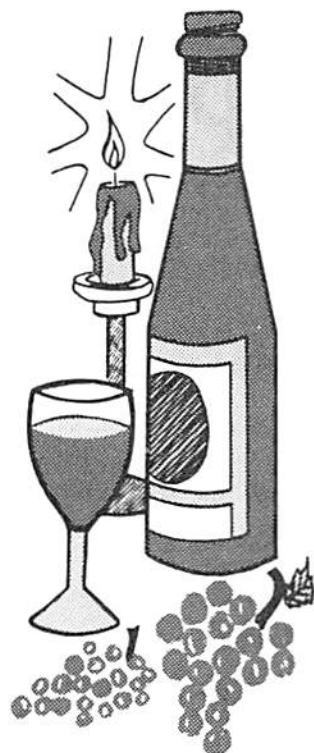


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Phil Bates

CONTINUED FROM 43

By the end of the Florida State game this season, Bates already had doubled that rushing total.

According to Corgan, Bates played the best of any of Nebraska's offensive backs in the Cornhuskers' disappointing 10-7 season-opening loss to Iowa. Bates carried only six times for 38 yards, but he had Nebraska's most productive single play of the game, breaking free on a 22-yard run midway through the fourth quarter.

Bates said if he had lifted his legs a little higher on the play, he could have scored and Nebraska would have won the game. Little things can make a big difference, and Bates was analyzing what he might have done "as an individual" to change the game around.

The next Saturday, the Cornhuskers did win over Florida State, and Bates made a significant contribution, though Corgan said he also made a few more mistakes. Again, Bates nearly broke a long touchdown run. The first time he carried in the second half against the Seminoles, on a first-and-10 at the NU 27-yard line, he crashed through the middle of the line and ran 27 yards before being tripped up. "I just wish I had a step more of speed so when I get in the open I could do more damage," he said. "I'm going to break more than one before the season is over."

Much more can be learned about a football player when he loses, however, and so it was with Bates following the Iowa game. The same persistence which has brought him this far in life kept him from becoming discouraged as the seconds ticked off in that bitter Cornhusker defeat. Bates said he never got discouraged until the scoreboard clock showed zeroes. He was an optimist to the end.

"I never doubted we would win."

Bates says throughout his career, he has remembered Johnette's advice, words he has "taken as gold." He's worked hard to earn his scholarship. He's gotten his bench press up over 350 pounds; he's learned the Husker system and waited his turn.

Bates admits playing football for Nebraska wasn't a singular goal when he was in high school. "It was never 'Rah, Rah, Cornhuskers', or anything like that," he said. "I was looking to get away, but after I did, I realized, 'Why



Phil Bates

should I go away from the state with one of the top football programs in the nation?" I should try to take advantage of it. Coming here has made me feel a lot better."

Knowing he would be Nebraska's No. 1 fullback heading into fall camp didn't make Bates work any harder over the summer. "I can't really say that because I've been working hard all along, straight through since last season. You can't get it done here in just one summer," said Bates.

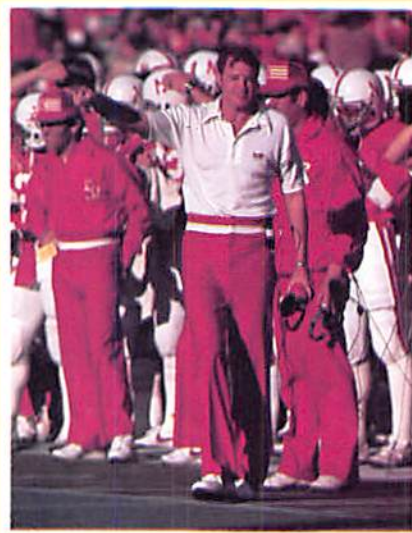
Actually, he's been working much longer than that. His development was already underway when he first enrolled in junior college. Now the recognition he never got, the injuries and the uncertainties of transferring from school to school seem not to matter anymore.

"Doing well here makes up for it all," Bates said. "Some guys get all that stuff in high school, and they never do any better."

"I guess you could say I'm lucky."

Bates doesn't really think luck had much to do with where he is, however. That was obvious when he talked about the emergency hernia operation his three-month-old daughter, Audra, had in Omaha during pre-season training camp. The big fullback missed one morning of the two-a-day practices to be at the hospital with his wife, Audry, while the operation was being performed.

By that afternoon, however, Bates was back on the practice field north of Memorial Stadium, running drills as Nebraska's No. 1 fullback. Audra was doing fine, he said, adding: "I have faith in God I know He'll take care of her."



This year's team features a lot of new faces. In your opinion, what have been the most pleasant surprises?

"We've had several. Doug Wilkening, our No. 2 fullback, has been one of the biggest. He couldn't play last spring because of a ruptured disc. He went to Canada to get the same enzyme shot that helped Mark Goodspeed and David Clark. Then he worked awfully hard all summer. We ended spring ball thinking that fullback might be a weakness, but Doug's progress has made it a strength. He doesn't have the experience that Jim Kotera had, but physically, he's very close. Allen Lyday has been another pleasant surprise at cornerback. When he came here, we'd never heard of him. He transferred from Texas Southern to wrestle and walked on to play football. He started at the bottom and right now, he's playing as well as any of our cornerbacks. Mitch Krenk fits into the same category at tight end. He came in here weighing 190 pounds and was just like any of the other 30 or 40 walk-ons that year. Now, he weighs 230, runs a :04.8 in the 40 and has been almost as important to us as a starter. A year ago, he was fourth or fifth team. Now, he's playing a lot. Tony Felici has been another pleasant development at defensive end. We always knew he had a great deal of athletic ability, but this fall has been the first time that he has shown any kind of consistency. It was important because we needed him. Of all the players on this year's team, Dave Stromath has probably been the

Ask Tom Osborne

biggest surprise. He was a marginal athlete when he came here and only weighed 190 pounds. Even after his third year here, I don't think anybody would have thought he'd ever play. But he's worked awfully hard and been very patient. Basically, he's been here five years to play one. He had so far to go physically, it's taken him that long. He's a rare case, but he's been a valuable player. We have Toby Williams, Henry Waechter and Dave Stromath at defensive tackle this year. If anyone has earned a Black Shirt, Dave has, even though he plays behind those two when everyone is healthy. Dave is a good example of what a football player can do, if he's willing to work hard and dedicate himself to the game. Football is so much a case of determination, maybe more than any other sport. You don't have to be born as talented or as gifted as you do for a sport like basketball. You have to have some basic ability. But if you work hard enough, you can play eventually. That's why you see so many unbelievable things happen in football."

How difficult is it to recruit great players from a state like California to Nebraska's kind of climate?

"Bob Newton, Bob Terrio, Keith Wortman and Dick Rupert all visited Nebraska in a snowstorm. All four were Californians, all four ended up coming here and all four played on national championship teams. Newton was an All-American on our 1971 national championship team and is still starting in the offensive line for the Seattle Seahawks. Terrio, Wortman and Rupert started on both national championship teams. Terrio was an all-conference linebacker who made the interception that saved our first national championship against LSU in the Orange Bowl. Wortman is

still starting in the offensive line with the St. Louis Cardinals. Rupert was All-Big Eight. He liked Lincoln so well, he's still here and doing well in the insurance business. That group sort of set the stage for our recruiting in California. They came from a state with a lot of major college teams, pro sports, plus a jillion other things, like the beach and the mountains. When they came to Nebraska, they battled the weather a little at first and some may have thought Nebraska was a little provincial socially. But we've found that California recruits are greatly impressed by the intense loyalty of Nebraska people and strangely enough, a lot of them like it so well, they wind up living here."

What is your feeling on the NCAA freshman-eligible rule?

"My feelings are a little mixed. In moments of real candor, I think most coaches would tell you that the freshman-eligible rule isn't the best thing for the players. Programs that are trying to build and are short of depth and talent feel they need freshmen. But I think they would settle for a compromise position. If scholarship numbers would increase to 35 a year instead of 30, and 105 or 110 overall instead of 95, I think they'd be willing to go back to the freshman ineligible rule. Even the majority of the college basketball players have longer to adjust and their sport requires more innate ability to play sooner. Ideally, most college coaches are against the freshman-eligible rule." ●

EDITOR'S NOTE: If you have questions for Coach Tom Osborne, write to the *Huskers Illustrated*, Box 83222, Lincoln, NE 68501. We reserve the right to select only those questions we feel appropriate.